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Europäisches
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Zweigstelle
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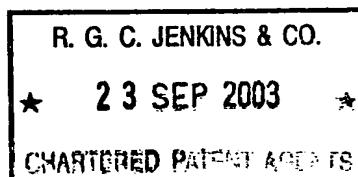
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22.09.03

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. J00045185EP	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 03252132.0-1248-
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire Mitsubishi Electric Information Technology Centre Europe B.V., et al	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract

title

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

3

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
D, A	WO 00 39643 A (RATLIFF PAUL A ;MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC INF TECH (GB); SZAJNOWSKI WIES) 6 July 2000 (2000-07-06) * abstract * * page 9, line 15 - page 11, line 18 * ---	1,6,10, 11	G01S13/10
A	US 6 115 113 A (FLOCKENCIER STUART W) 5 September 2000 (2000-09-05) * abstract * -----	1,6,10, 11	
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)			
G01S G04F G01R			

1 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
A : technological background
O : non-written disclosure
P : intermediate document

T : theory or principle underlying the invention

E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date

D : document cited in the application

L : document cited for other reasons

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& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 25 2132

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

09-09-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 0039643	A	06-07-2000	AU	1882400 A	31-07-2000	
			EP	1145084 A1	17-10-2001	
			WO	0039643 A1	06-07-2000	
			GB	2345149 A ,B	28-06-2000	
			JP	2002533732 T	08-10-2002	
			US	6539320 B1	25-03-2003	
US 6115113	A	05-09-2000		NONE		



This application is covered by the extended European search report pilot project at present running within the European Patent Office, applied to all European patent applications filed as first filing and searched on or after 01.07.03. Under this project the EPO issues together with the search report an opinion on whether the application and the invention to which it relates meet the requirements of the EPC. This non-binding opinion is issued free of charge as a service. This opinion may be used as the basis for an informed decision as to whether it is desired to pursue the application further or not.

For further details of this pilot project, the applicant's attention is directed to the Official Journal edition 5/2003. If any further immediate questions or comments arise the EPO Customer Services: +31-70-340 4500 or +49-89-2399 2828 can be contacted.

The attached opinion reveals that the application or the invention to which it relates appear not to meet the requirements of the Convention (see comments on enclosed Form 2906).

If the applicant wishes to continue with this application the examination fee must be paid. Where appropriate amendments can be filed to address the objections raised in the opinion, thus shortening the overall procedure. If no amendments are filed, the opinion will be re-issued as the first official communication under Article 96(2) and Rule 51(2) EPC.

If the examination fee has already been paid and the right to the communication under Article 96(1) EPC has been waived for this application, the first official communication under Article 96(2) and Rule 51(2) EPC will be issued promptly.



The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents**:

Text for the Contracting States:

AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR LI

Description, pages:

1-20 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-11 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/6-6/6 as originally filed

1. The following document is referred to in this communication; the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:
D1: WO 00 39643 A (RATLIFF PAUL A ;MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC INF TECH (GB); SZAJNOWSKI WIES) 6 July 2000 (2000-07-06)
2. Claims 1, 6 and 10 have been drafted as separate independent claims. Under Article 84 in combination with Rule 29(2) EPC an application may contain more than one independent claim in a particular category only if the subject matter claimed falls within one or more of the exceptional situations set out in paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of Rule 29(2) EPC. While this is the case for claims 1 and 6, as from Rule 29(2)(a), it is not the case for claim 10 which is a different combination of features already claimed elsewhere.
3. The vague and imprecise statement in the description on page 20, lines 12 to 13 "it is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed", implies that the subject-matter for which protection is sought may be different to that defined by the claims, thereby resulting in lack of clarity of the claims (Article 84 EPC) when used to interpret them (see the Guidelines, C-III, 4.3a). This statement should therefore be amended to remove this inconsistency.



4. The applicant is requested to file new claims which take account of the above comments. Attention has to be paid to the following aspects:
 - 4.1 The Independent claim should be written in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 29(1) EPC, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art D1 being placed in the preamble (Rule 29(1)(a) EPC) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 29(1)(b) EPC).
The Independent claim should therefore be drafted accordingly. If, however, the applicant is of the opinion that the two-part form would be inappropriate, then reasons therefor should be provided in the letter of reply. In addition, the applicant should ensure that it is clear from the description which features of the subject-matter of the independent claim are already known in combination from the document D1 (see the Guidelines, C-III, 2.3b).
 - 4.2 The features of the claims should be provided with reference signs placed in parentheses to increase the intelligibility of the claims (Rule 29(7) EPC). This applies to both the preamble and characterising portion (see the Guidelines, C-III, 4.11).